

THE WRANGLER

Wrangler Bde supports low-cost, low-altitude training

Story by Sgt. Stephanie Woodson,
4th SB Public Affairs

Fourth Sustainment Brigade Soldiers supported 15th BSB, 1st Cav on a Low Cost Low Altitude training mission dropping bundles from a Chinook helicopter at Antelope drop zone Dec. 14.

“Low Cost Low Altitude drop is a system designed to be more cost efficient and also provides the unit delivery without utilizing outside forces.

The LCLA has a capability of 600 lbs of air delivery resupply,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Anthony Cunningham, a senior airdrop tech for the 4th SB.

“Soldiers can actually drop [supplies] into a forward operating base without having to come outside the [Forward Operating Base] without having to lose lives during a convoy mission,” said Cunningham.

“Prior to the LCLA being utilized, if airdrops needed to be done, we would have to go to a rigger unit and allocate Soldiers to rig the bundles and do everything,” said Cunningham.

“Training other Soldier and units gives them the opportunity to rig their own bundles,” said Cunningham.

“Soldiers can load it on their own bundles on their own aircraft and the Soldiers can deliver it to themselves.”

15th BSB is really the first unit that the 4th Sust. Bde. Has trained on LCLA because of upcoming deployments, said Cunningham.

“They are trying to get up to speed with what is being utilized down range.”

“We may have been the first in the chute because I don’t think other units are aware of this training,” said Capt. Monica Heightshoe, a support operations transportation coordinator, assigned to the 15th BSB, 2nd Brigade, 1ST Calvary Division.

“We are in the process of building a continuity book, so not just the Army but the air force, pilots, and other Soldiers.

She thinks overall it should be something continued.

“Far as, limitations a specific number has not been placed on it,” said Heightshoe.

“The limitations come in when you are doing the execution portions because you can only have one person on the radio and checking the



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joel Gibson

An Air Force C-130 transport plane drops bundles of supplies on Fort Hood.

wind.”

She said the training was more familiarization, so no one got certified.

“Next mission we have like this one, I want to have more Soldiers involved. So, they will able to get hands on training,” said Heightshoe.

She said the overall experience was fun, but leading up to the mission was stressful.

“Everything worked out the way it was suppose to,” said Heightshoe. “It was the perfect opportunity to do joint training with other Soldiers in different military specialty occupation and ranks.”

Sustainment Soldiers talk to residents of Veterans home



1LT Daniel Eady, 4th Special Troops Battalion, speaks with an Army Veteran about his experiences while serving during the Veteran’s Day celebration at the William R. Courtney Texas State Veterans Home on November 11.

Story by Capt. Tiffiney Brooks,
Unit Public Affairs Representative, 49th MCB

On November 11, 2012 the Special Troops Battalion and HHD Rear, 49 Movement Control Battalion held a Veterans Day program at the William R. Courtney Texas State Veterans Home in Temple, TX. After the hour long program, the Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen mingled with the veterans residing at the home. Several Lieutenants and I, HHD Rear Commander, 49th MCB took the time to interview several veterans to learn a little bit about them and their story. I was fortunate to interview Jacqueline Macal. Macal entered Service in the United States Marines May 14, 1943, serving a total of 4 years. When asked what the highest rank she held was, she stated that women didn’t really have ranks back then. She served during WWII as a bookkeeper and traffic controller in a control tower. During this time she made \$11-18 a month. Her best memory during her service was when she won a Miss Independence Contest in 1944 and won a kiss from Bing Crosby and Bob Hope at EL Toro Marine Air Station. Macal’s family has four generations of service beginning with her, then her son Lester LaRoy who served in Vietnam, her granddaughter, Kelly N. Glass who served in Desert Storm and her great grandson, Christopher Bakowski who is currently serving in the United States Army Special Forces. Macal is a widow after being married 50 years to Edward Macal, and currently resides in the William R. Courtney Texas State Veterans Home.

THE WRANGLER

Command Staff

Commanding Officer
Col. Mark Simerly

Brigade CSM
Command Sgt. Maj. Rex Ray

Public Affairs NCO
Sgt. 1st Class Joel Gibson

Editor
Sgt. Stephanie Woodson

The Wrangler is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Wrangler are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, or the Department of the Army.

All editorial content of the Wrangler is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 4th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs Office

CONTENTS

Pages 3-5

Brigade and Battalion commander and CSM comments

Page 6

Honey Badgers improve their foxhole

Page 7

602nd changes command

Page 8

CLS Training and Bn commander for a day

Page 9

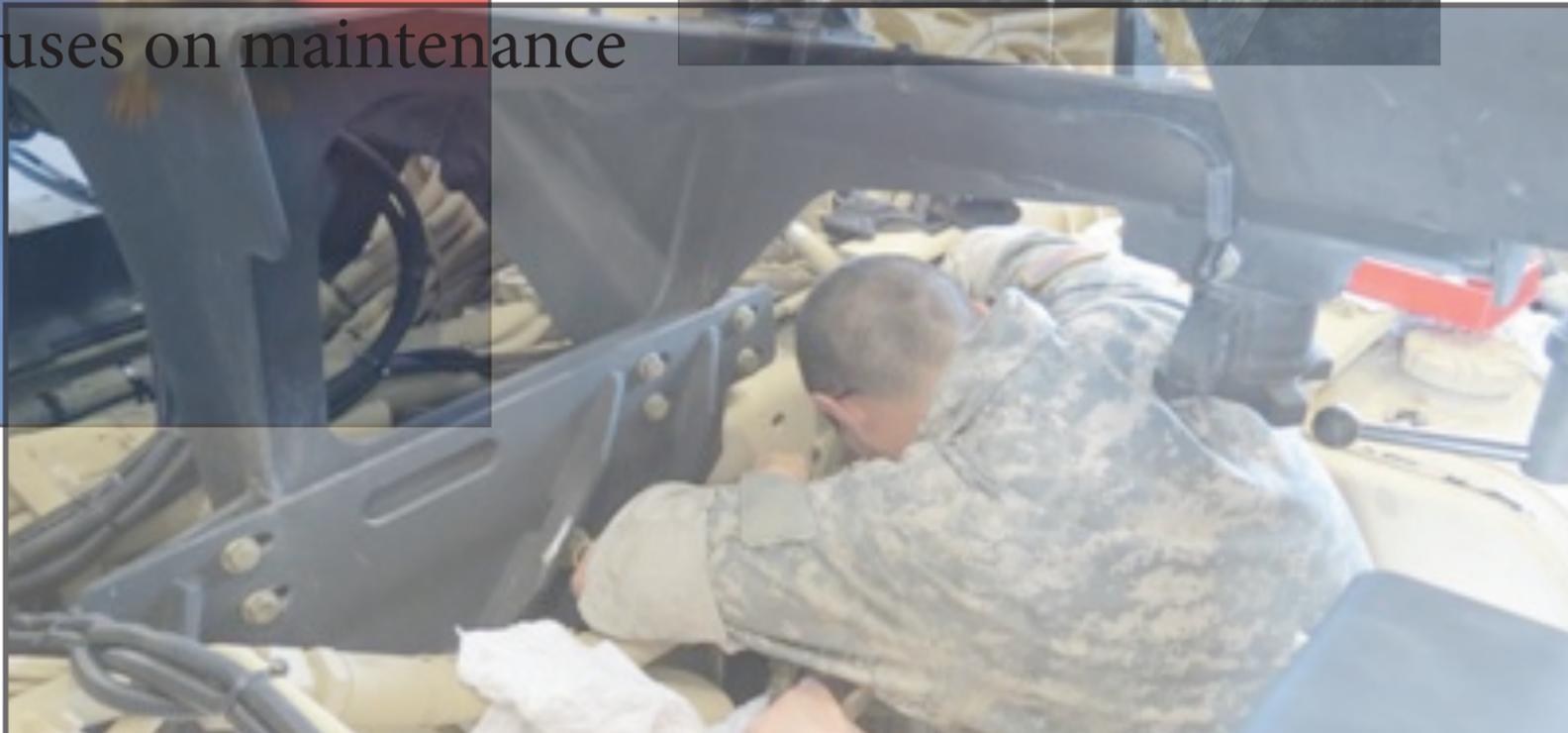
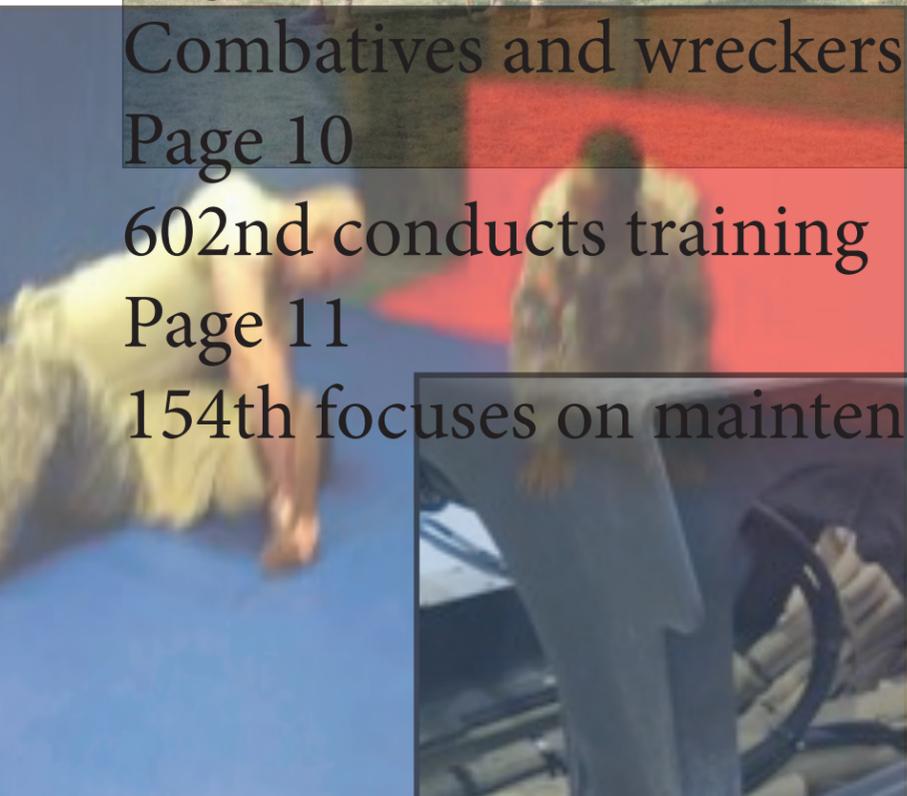
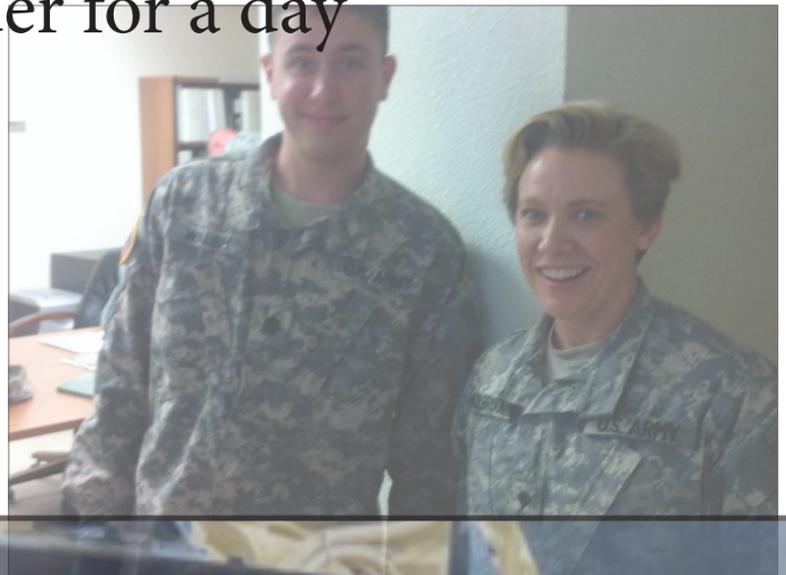
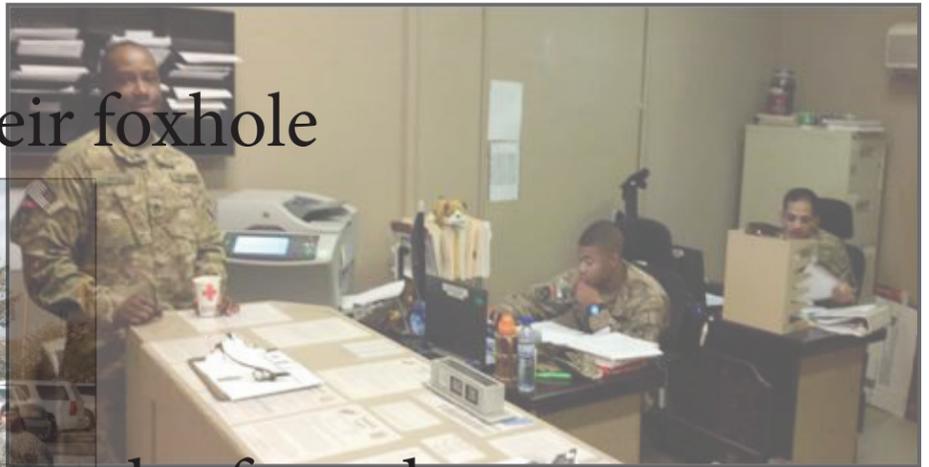
Combatives and wreckers

Page 10

602nd conducts training

Page 11

154th focuses on maintenance



4TH SUSTAINMENT BDE COMMANDER: COL MARK SIMERLY

Dear Wrangler Family and Friends,

This is the first newsletter of the year and I'd like to take a moment to thank you all for your sustained efforts in support of the command. The Wrangler Brigade exists to sustain III Corps and we cannot succeed in our mission without your outstanding efforts.

In the upcoming quarter the Wrangler Brigade has many important opportunities to excel, from deployments and deployment exercise, tough, realistic training here and places like the National Training Center, and sustaining Fort Hood operations. In the month of February we will compete in the III Corps Combatives Tournament, as well as hold a Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter Board. We will conduct Field Training Exercises as well as prepare for a brigade-level Command Post Exercise. We will also welcome back units from Afghanistan and prepare to send other units back to the fight.

We must stay focused on improving our number one priority, readiness, and building the foundation for that priority through the health of the force, leaders development, taking care of our Families, and engagement with our community. I ask you all to guide your actions with the "Wrangler Way," serving with trust, discipline, and commitment. Work hard to build individual and unit resilience and remember that the primary responsibility of every leader is to develop bold, adaptive and agile leaders.

I want you all to understand the importance of what you do and its visibility - to the Brigade, to III Corps, and most of all, to the people who depend on your work to fulfill their mission. You are important, what you do is important, and by teaming together we make a tremendous impact on Fort Hood and the Army. I welcome all new Soldiers of the 4th Sustainment Brigade. The Wranglers have a proven standard of success. Trust in your leaders and your training and you will no doubt be a success also.

I hope that you enjoy the articles included within this month's issue--they represent just a few of the great news stories of the great things you have accomplished. I encourage any feedback or comments you may have on the content. Please contact us at (254) 288-5326 with any specific comments.

To the Wranglers and our Family members, I am extremely proud of your dedication, professionalism and sacrifice, and consider myself very



fortunate to serve with you in the Army's biggest and best sustainment brigade. Thanks for what you do every day.

Just Get it Done!
"Wranglers"

COL Mark Simerly
Wrangler 6

4TH SUSTAINMENT BDE CSM: CSM REX RAY

As Command Sergeant Major of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, I am proud of the Brigade's success in 2012 and have great expectations for the upcoming year. As the largest logistics unit on Fort Hood, we at the "Wrangler"

Brigade have a unique mission; a mission that mandates progressive and forward OPTEMPO. 2013 stands to be yet another successful year for the 4th Sustainment Brigade as we train for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan and multiple unit rotations to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. As Brigade Command Sergeant Major, I have entrusted my leadership guidance and philosophy to all Non-Commissioned Officers and have placed on them a mission that cannot fail; a mission to mentor, guide, and train the Soldiers of this incredible unit. Trust in your leadership and train for success.

In the upcoming year, I will be implementing and continuing many programs to be utilized by Soldiers and Leaders that can and will set the tone for success within your units and your path to a successful career. Some of these programs will include a Quarterly Brigade

Sergeant Audie Murphy Board, continuing the Brigade NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Boards, Wrangler Day events that will be centered on Equal Opportunity, the Army Sharp program, Barracks Management, Safety, Battle Buddy systems and overall leadership and Soldier engagement.

In 2013, we at the "Wrangler" Brigade are going to have to defend our title as Fort Hood's Phantom Warrior Week Champion's, calling on all members of the Brigade to come together once again and compete against all units across Fort Hood and once again show the Great Place, what the Soldiers, Non-Commissioned and leaders of this outstanding unit can do! I have no doubts, that we will overcome adversity and defend our title and retain our level of greatness and become the 2013 Phantom Warrior Week Champions. We will also be supporting the Fort Hood Combatives Tournament.

My door is always open for any Soldier of this unit to come and see me for any reason. However, I ask that you always keep your NCO Support Chain informed and aware and allow the leaders appointed above you the opportunity to resolve your issues prior to coming to see me.

If you are new to the 4th Sustainment Brigade I welcome you, and if you are seasoned within the Brigade, I ask that you take it upon yourself, regardless of rank or position, to engage your fellow Soldiers, peers, leaders and subordinates. Come together and assist one another.

Always remember ... "Non-Commissioned Officers cannot pick and choose which standards to enforce. We enforce them all."

"Just Get It Done"
"Wranglers"



STB COMMANDER: LTC ANGELA HOLBROOK



Well, 2013 looks to be another great lineup for Wolfpack Nation. There is never a dull moment for the over 1450+ teammates in eleven subordinate companies in the 'Pack. Though fiscal constraints are in place that won't slow the high productivity and pace the Wolfpack will be engaging this year.

Just a week into the New Year the STB bid farewell to the Titans of 80th MCT enroute to their 9-month excursion to OEF where they linked in with the 49th MCB Headquarters to provide movement control in Regional Command-East.

The Hellriders of 259th MCT got the mission of a lifetime where they have been serving since November 12 to prepare and later support the

Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C. Many of the team even got to get a photo op with the Commander-in-Chief while on the job. We are very proud of how well they represented the Wolfpack and Wrangler Brigade.

The truck companies in the STB (154th, 297th, & 96th TC) have been hard at work licensing new crews to increase the unit's ability to provide that world-class distribution service to Fort Hood and beyond. The quarter ahead will yield many opportunities for the Renegades, Ghostriders, and Heavy Truck to show their support with gunneries, deployment support, and Operations Rising Star and Wolfpack & Truck Rodeo competition.

The 15 FMSU eagerly awaits the redeployment of the B Det "Honey Badgers" in late February from Afghanistan as they prepare to deploy both the Headquarters and A Det to OEF later this summer. Good thing there is still C Det on the job to make sure we can fund the fight.

Our "Voice of the Pack" has been broadcasting their talents with clarity and volume the last two quarters of 2012 supporting numerous brigade level exercises for units on Fort Hood as well as those who come to mobilize and deploy from here. The Signal Company of choice by many is using this first quarter to hewn their technical prowess with IT credentialing opportunities as well as warrior tasks and weapons qualification.

The Rough Riders from 502nd HR though 75% deployed, had one of their postal platoons tapped for GRF as they also prepare for their an-

nual external evaluation at the only Army wide HR exercise, Silver Scimitar at Fort Devens, MA in March.

The remainders of the Pack (HHC, 571 & 151 MCT) are hard at work supporting the brigade and the installation with various life supports while maintaining a healthy involvement in our local community partnerships with Nolan Middle School, Belton Christian Youth Center and the Temple Veterans Home.

Big events this quarter for the battalion include the Second Annual Superbowl Jersey Friends and Family Fun Run (Feb 1st) and Battalion FTX the last week of February. Though there are many things on Wolfpack Nation's plate no are more important that the Soldiers and Families who stand under the Wolfpack colors.

The key to taming a high operational tempo is settling in on a pace and being consistent and deliberate about our steps. Readiness remains Priority One but we can't "Bring the FIST to the Fight" if we don't continue to do the things that sustain us to remain razor's edge ready under the shaping operations of health of the force (which includes Families), telling the Army story, and developing the next generation of leaders.

So eat breakfast and bring your "A" game because when you mess with the 'Pack you'll get more than you bargained for.

One Pack - One Fight!
LTC Angie Holbrook

STB CSM: CSM TIMOTHY WOODS

Good day to all that follow the 'Wolf Pack' Nation. This quarter the 'Pack' refined our focus on leadership and standards within the noncommissioned officer ranks.

The highlighted program is our newly formed Squad Leader Development Program. We are a Profession of Arms, so our leaders need to be professional in all they do.

The Squad Leader Development Program focuses on the abilities of our specialists and junior NCOs to effectively train, coach, teach and mentor our junior Soldiers. This will no doubt foster a stellar leader capable of leading our Army.

Our Green Platoon continues to make strides with our newest Wolf Pups to the Pack. This is where we inprocess Soldiers by getting them to Central Issue Facility, driver's training, weapon qualification, combatives and any MEDPROS they might need. Soldiers report to their respective units ready to train and ready to perform their missions.

During January, our 259TH MCT conducted the POTUS mission in DC. The unit was recognized by the President for their outstanding support during the Presidential Inauguration.

CPT Foster and SSG Johnson did a great job out there which was evident as many of their Soldiers were recognized by General Officers with coins of excellence.

Sergeant's Time Training this quarter has been geared for our upcoming BN FTX. The PACK is ready to get out there to show off our "fieldcraft" and validate that we have the tactical skills required to support Unified Land Operations.

Our Driver's Training Academy has been extremely busy getting our Soldiers the necessary training on our multiple vehicle systems.

We're training Soldiers from across the installation as well as civilian contractors.

The big push was training our Soldiers from 96th on the new HETs we received while they were deployed.

SPC Jewell, the STB Soldier of the quarter, from 207th Signal Company was selected to attend the Presidential Inaugural Ball.

She was one of three Soldiers to attend from Ft Hood. Wolf Pack leading the way!

Finally, we cannot forget that we currently have a portion of our 'Pack' deployed ISO OEF. Our Soldiers from 15 FMSU, 502D HRC and 80TH MCT are all doing a fantastic job down range.

We remain proud of the service and sacrifice that they and their families are enduring.

Looking forward to next quarter when we conduct our NCO Induction Ceremony and a Truck Rodeo.

Thank you to all the Soldiers, families and civilians who continue to make the STB a major factor at the Great Place and make me proud to be Wolf Pack 7!

NCOs make it HAPPEN.



553RD CSSB COMMANDER: LTC KEITH MCVEIGH

Greetings GUNSLINGERS & welcome back from what I am sure was a wonderful Holiday Season. I pray all of the 553 CSSB Soldiers, civilians and families enjoyed the holidays. The Holidays are a memorable and enjoyable time for all of us to spend with Family and friends reflecting on the blessing of the past year and the bright future.

2012 was a fast paced year for the battalion after its redeployment from Iraq in December 2011. Upon assuming control of the battalion in January 2012, we received the 53QM, the 62QM and the 157QM companies from the 49th MCB as they prepared for their deployment to Afghanistan. Immediately we re-established systems within the battalion, had an extremely large turnover of personnel, and began the rebuilding process of the battalion. Several months later, we welcomed the 602SMC back from its deployment from Afghanistan and the new Command Sergeant Major, CSM Jessie C. Bates Jr, arrived and the transition from the LEAPORD Battalion to the GUNSLINGERS began! In July 2012, multiple units deployed to Camp Atterbury, IN in support of the Joint Task Force Civil Support Nationwide exercise providing catastrophe relief due to a simulated Nuclear Explosion in Chicago. In August 2012, the 180th TB de-activated and we welcomed three new companies to the GUNSLINGER Team, the 289QM, the 418TC and the mighty 664OD. Now the team was built and 1600 Soldiers called the GUNSLINGER BATTALION home.

As I stated earlier, the past year has been busy with each company providing its exceptional mission support to all of Fort Hood. We fuel

the aircraft at North Fort Hood, we run the largest SSA on the installation, we ensure all the linen for the 21st Replacement Detachment and Non-Commissioned Officers Academy is cleaned and maintained, we provide field support consisting of shower and laundry service as well as refrigeration to units training in the field, we run the DOL SSA and weapons warehouse, we repair and perform services for units who are unable to maintain their own equipment, and of course, we run the Ammunition Storage Point and Ammunition Holding Area for all of Fort Hood. Did I forget to mention all the transportation and MHE mission we do as well? Additionally, many of the units in the battalion will continue their contingency missions, prepared to deploy anywhere in the world to defend the United States or provide relief efforts should a natural or manmade catastrophe occur. It is clear that Fort Hood could not do its mission without the hard work and efforts of the GUNSLINGER Soldiers! 2013 will prove to be just as busy and exciting as 2012. We deployed the 289QM just prior to the beginning of 2013 and the 418TC will depart later this year. We have battalion FTXs upcoming every quarter and multiple NTC rotations that we will support along with the continued support Fort Hood as well as prepare and train for our contingency missions. Also, we cannot forget the importance and value of our Families and the Family Readiness Groups. Exceptional progress has been made over the last year due to the efforts of the FRSA, all the FRG Leaders and contributing volunteers. My wife Heide and I thank you and are extremely impressed in all that you do. Keep up the good work and your



Christmas Parties were AWESOME!

In closing, I want to thank all of you for all the hard work and dedication to the battalion and work we do every day. Never forget that safety continues to be the most important part of all we do. Whether at Fort Hood, deployed or on leave, we want each member of the GUNSLINGER team to stay focused, be safe and remember every Soldier and Family member of this team is vital to the success of our mission. Lastly, I ask each and every one of you to ask yourself one question: What can I do every day to improve myself and my unit? Imagine the possibilities if we all answered that question each day!

GUNSLINGERS 6 – “DUTY FIRST”

553RD CSSB CSM: CSM JESSIE BATES

We wish all our 553D CSSB Soldiers, civilians and their families a happy and prosperous new year. I hope your holiday was fun-filled with families and friends. At this time, we pause to remember our fellow soldiers serving overseas on various missions. We pray for their families and for their safety. We also remember those soldiers we have lost, and pray that their souls may be at rest and that their families find comfort and solace and ultimately; healing.

2012 has been an awesome year. The 553D CSSB provided over 170,000lbs of food to feed the home-



less of Killeen, TX during the holidays. Our Soldiers surpassed their expected goal of 120,000. Also, our command has conducted several blood drives which aided

our fellow Soldiers who have been wounded in battle and the city of Belton our community partners during a Boots and Badges blood drive. The 553D CSSB also hosted the Baylor basketball team here on Fort Hood. The team was taken through the Leaders Reaction Course where they learned about unit cohesiveness, communication and teamwork at the lowest level. Also, the team had a chance to participate in Combatives demonstration and played in a 5 on 5 basketball tournament where the 553D CSSB A Team won first place. Our command is a big supporter of AUSA. We have the largest number of AUSA members on Fort Hood.

Our goal here in this organization is to build leaders and prepare our units to do whatever mission our country call on us to do. The 553D CSSB implemented various programs such as NCODP, Special Conditioning PT Program, Quarterly Barracks and TA 50 Inspections and NCO/Soldier of the Quarter Boards. Our command has had the honor of placing first in both the Brigade NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Board 4th FY12 and 1st FY13. Our command has incorporated the Female Mentorship program which teaches female soldiers about barracks life and how to take care of themselves when they are on or off duty. This program talked about SHARP and how they perceived the army as a whole.

For the year 2013, we aspire to make it a more memorable one than last year. We will continue to build outstanding leaders and Soldiers within our command and will always recognize them for their hard work and dedication to duty. Remember, “Taking care of soldiers is more than giving them time off, it’s ensuring that they and their equipment are always ready.”

GUNSLINGERS 7-“DUTY FIRST”

Honey Badgers improve their foxhole

Story by Staff Sgt Prabhdeep Singh,
Unit Public Affairs Representative, 15th FM

Since the Honey Badgers arrived in theater, they have been driven to continuously improve their foxhole. The mission of Bravo 15th Financial Management Detachment is to provide outstanding financial support to Bagram Airfield and Forward Operating Base Shank.

As the unit quickly approached the halfway mark of their deployment, they continued to seek out new ways of improving their customer service. Conducting split operations can pose a challenge for a small unit, such as a finance detachment. The force reduction saw two early redeployers and has forced the unit to do more with less. Both sites provide financial assistance to outlying locations. In order to better serve these austere sites, the unit has established an inbox for military pay inquiries and documents. The inbox allows austere sites the ability to submit documents for their Soldiers without leaving their area of operations. The military pay sections process an average of more than 1,200 transactions per week. The improvements do not stop there. The Honey Badgers have modified their office space to better accommodate their customers as well. The unit has also partnered with the postal section to serve as a one-stop shop during their financial support team missions to the austere locations. As winter starts closing in, the unit continues to plan and prepare for continued support. Providing financial support during the winter in theater requires more than just a set of Yaktrax (Extreme Conditions Boots).

As travel between the sites becomes harder, effective planning and coordination with the supported units is vital. The support must continue. In an effort to help provide the best possible finance support, the Honey Badgers are preparing for a rotation of their junior enlisted Soldiers. The junior enlisted Soldiers will be rotating into a new section in the finance offices. The disbursing Soldiers will switch with the military pay Soldiers. This cross-training is an important strategy in providing excellent customer support. This training provides a universal finance Soldier, capable of assisting in all aspects of finance support. B/15th FMD, improving the foxhole while supporting the climb.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jacob Black

Sgt. Jennifer Benjamin, human resources sergeant, 502D HRC, 4th Sustainment Brigade, and a Louisiana native shakes hands with the instructor of the Postal Operations Course, Gunnery Sergeant Merriweather as she receives her graduation certificate.

The Bagram Military Pay Office researching and processing transactions. From left to right: Staff Sgt. James Thweatt, Spc. Chauncey Williams and Spc. Sameer Paudel.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Prabhdeep Singh

62nd QM Aces III Corps Environmental Compliance Inspection

Story by 2LT Robie Verano
Unit Public Affairs Representative, 62nd

Fort Hood, Texas- It has been a little over two months since 62nd Quartermaster Company took over the Supply Support Activity Warehouse, but the progress made in environmental compliance has been exponential. Environmental compliance has been a difficult task in this particular SSA because of their task to issue Class III POL and batteries to units all over Fort Hood. Furthermore, III Corps also designated this location as the turn in site for excess and old Class III POL, causing major issues during the inspection because of the heavy emphasis on these items.

1LT Jeremy Evans, the unit's Environmental Compliance Officer (ECO) went to ECO School for two weeks and then trained Motor Sergeant SSG John Still to be his NCOIC for this mission. With 1LT Evan's and SSG Still's guidance, the Panthers passed the inspection on October 31 with flying colors. It is important to keep the company within standards because state and federal environmental inspectors can come at anytime and fine the unit if their area of operations does not meet standards. In order to pass this inspection, all POL and batteries must be on secondary containment with a label, NSN, and a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). During an inspection, a Soldier is given 30 seconds to look up an MSDS for whatever item the inspector chooses. PV2 Mithel Briley and SGT Justin Armstrong were two other Soldiers that went and



Photo taken by Mr. Coffee

above their duties to assist with the preparation. These Soldiers worked up to the early morning hours leading up to the inspection to ensure everything was in compliance.

The Environmental Protection Specialist from the Directorate of Public Works, Mr. Daniel Coffee, was more than impressed with what he saw during his inspection. Mr. Coffee has not stopped praising the 62nd QM Company's team

for their hard work to get their area of operations up to par. 1LT Evans also played a huge role in the battalion's success in last quarter's inspection when the 553D Combat Sustainment Support Battalion got the Environmental Stewardship Award for their area of operations in their Combined Motor Pool. The battalion hopes to continue their success in future inspections.

53rd Quartermaster Company Fuelers' Hard at Work



Photo by 2nd Lt. Tiffany Franklin

Here is a snapshot of the 53rd Quartermaster Company fuelers hard at work. In April 2012, the 53rd Quartermaster Company began assisting North Fort Hood as a fuel support asset to the National Guard units that come to train prior to their deployments. Here in the photo Cpl. Jonathan Suddeath is recirculating fuel, in preparation to refuel the 2-135th GSAB Colorado Army National Guard unit. Aircraft fuel distribution is accomplished through two means: rapid refuel points and forward area refuel points. RRP's are established to rapidly refuel large numbers of aircraft during surge periods, such as air assaults. RRP's are generally longer duration operations that are time consuming to establish and difficult to move. The bulk fuel storage and distribution capability of the RRP allows the air assault task force to refuel a complete light and/or heavy serial simultaneously, thus minimizing ground time and enhancing the rapid build-up of combat power.

Detonators get blown up at combat lifesaver training

Story by 1st Lt. Michael R. Earle,
Unit Public Affairs Representative, 664 OD

Thirteen Soldiers from the 664th Ordnance Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion completed combat lifesaver training and successfully negotiated the field medical simulation course at the medical simulation training center.

“It was great to have the chance to test what we learned in the class in simulated combat”, said 2nd Lt. Jocelyn Alcala, 1st platoon leader, 664th Ordnance Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. “I am dead tired”.

The simulation is designed to give soldiers the chance to prove what they learned during a classroom portion of basic battlefield medical training and also to increase the pressure to get things right and remember their training. The course simulates responding to direct and indirect fire, evaluating a casualty, room clearing techniques, and preparing and sending a 9 line medical evacuation request.

Simulation day is a roller coaster event. First the squad enters a darkened area, and a simulated enemy fires upon them from a defended position, which forces the squad into cover. The squad then discovers a

downed comrade who has to be treated with first aid and evacuated to a safe area. Along the way more medical casualties are found and must be treated. The course challenges the squad physically, who have to protect themselves and their casualty while under constant fire.

After the casualty is evacuated, the squad receives orders to clear a nearby room, where another casualty is awaiting assistance. “One of the biggest challenges is you never know what’s coming next, and it’s surprising how many casualties are on the course”, said Alcala. Although the direct fire is simulated, paintballs are used to give the training more authenticity.

Sgt. Sarah Hewitt, training room NCO, 664th Ordnance Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion has completed the course before and assisted the cadre of the course during this cycle. “The paintballs definitely hurt, they give the Soldiers something else to think about besides just moving around or worrying about the casualty”, said Hewitt.

“This is something beyond the day to day training the company does, and it’s very physically and tactically demanding”, said Hewitt.



Photo by 1st Lt. Michael R. Earle

Soldiers from 664th Ordnance Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion lift a casualty over an obstacle.

Battalion Commander for the day

Story by Spc. Seth Walsh,
Commander for a day

On December 5th, 2012 I was transformed from specialist to lieutenant colonel for the day and given an insider’s view on what exactly a battalion commander does on an average day. Come to find out, it’s a job not just anyone could handle.

The level of attention required for the many briefings the commander must attend is staggering. Not only must every minute detail be mulled over, but critiqued so as not to forget any of the multitude of things needed to be addressed before approval is given by the commander. I certainly learned the importance of having an attentive staff of fellow officers around to make sure nothing is forgotten or missed during conversation. At the particular briefing I attended, all manner of questions had to be asked to see if the unit preparing for their mission had missed any important safety aspects regarding their convoy. It was really an eye opening to see in person the stress the commander has to deal with all at once.

Almost all the free time the commander has during the day is filled up by reading emails, signing documents, or speaking with visitors utilizing the open door policy. It should be common sense to any Soldier with concerns or problems they are facing to be taken up with their own chain of command before going directly to the battalion commander. Even so, folks will come knocking on the door to share a wide variety of concerns. As a leader who has very important matters to attend to, it can be even more stressful to have to pay attention to individual people and try to alleviate their issues. Being a battalion commander requires a ton of listening skills.

On top of all the aforementioned things, a battalion commander must also stay up to date on



each of their companies and the civilian side of the unit, such as Soldier’s wives/families. Utilizing the Family Readiness Group’s steering meeting was a nice way to see what is being done as far as alerting the Soldier’s families about what missions are arising or when certain events are coming up for everyone to be a part of. It is nice to see such involvement from dedicated servicemen/women/volunteers and was a nice reprieve from the usual activities of the day. The companies are all usually left to do their own thing, but having the authority to join in on their PT

regimen or training meetings is a nice perk as far as getting a grasp on their end of the command chain.

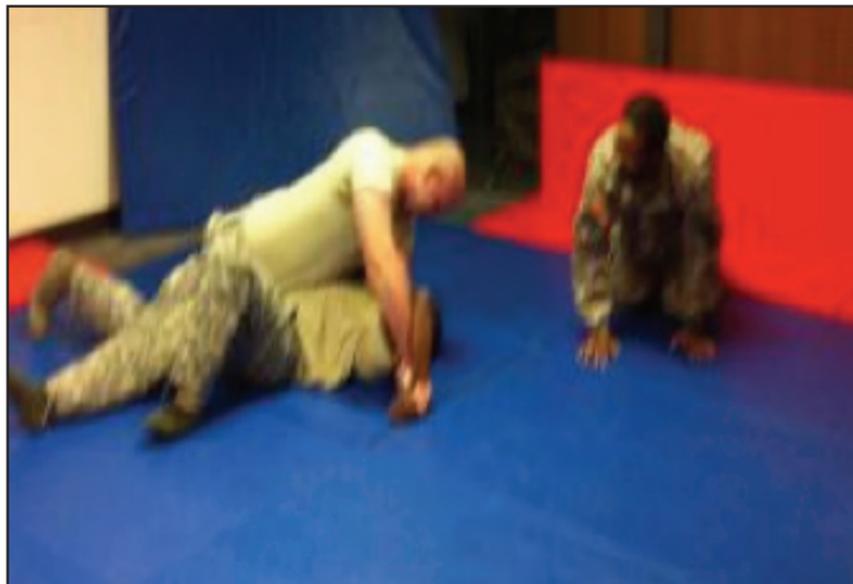
All in all it was a humbling experience to be LTC for the day. Dealing with that particular branch of leadership was both exciting and shocking. Me, a lowly specialist, used only to taking orders, was suddenly in charge of an entire battalion giving them. Now I see what all those officers mean when they say “it looks different coming from the top down then it does from the down up.” Thankfully it was only for the day.

Take It to the Back

Story and photo by Sgt. Christy Anderon,
Unit Public Affairs Representative, 207th Sig.

Hand to hand combat is a very important skill for Soldiers to know. Many Soldiers rely on their weapons to defeat the enemy, forgetting that the Soldiers, themselves, are weapons. Combatives is a training tool used to prepare Soldiers for the times when a weapon is unavailable or would be ineffective.

The 4th Sustainment Brigade has the Brigade Fight House for certifying Soldiers in Level 1 Combatives and holds classes weekly. Unfortunately, there are not enough slots every week for all Soldiers wanting to attend. The 207th Signal Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4SB, in an effort to help out the Brigade Fight House, has created its own training area to ensure all Soldiers become certified. A former storage cage in the rear of the Company has been fitted with mats and is open for those Soldiers unable to get seats in the Brigade class. The first certification class will be held December 17th through December 21st in the 207th Company area. "It keeps our instructors sharp, alleviates complacency in the workplace, and keeps the



Spc. Joshua Lambert was challenged by Spc. Terrance West on December 11, 2012.

Soldiers actively engaged", said 1st Sgt. Michael Doyle. "We can also certify senior leadership throughout the brigade on half-day schedules; I completely understand that it is often difficult for leaders to be away from their units for an entire week."

With the new fight house in the company, "take it to the back" has become a popular phrase throughout the 207th. Since the entire

company is Level 1 certified and the unit has several Level 2 and Level 3 Combatives instructors, it is not uncommon to see grappling matches throughout the work day. The 207th is a tightly knit family but as you can imagine within any family, there is a lot of playful "trash talking" going on. A way for Soldiers to constructively settle "trash talking" disputes is on the mat of friendly strife. Soldiers are allowed to challenge one another in a grappling match at any time throughout the day as long as a Combatives Instructor and a member of the Command Team are present to supervise. When asked about the new fight house, Spc. Ihrig said, "I think it is an awesome morale booster. Anything can be settled on the mat." The cage

not only raises Esprit de Corps in the unit but it reinforces Soldiers' combatives training. Engaging in combatives makes the training second nature and increases the unit's physical fitness levels as well. So if you are having a bad day or just want to have a good time, come over to the 207th Signal Company, ask anyone to "take it to the back".

154th TC conducts recovery

Story and photos courtesy 154th TC



On any regular Monday the company marches to its normal routine, command maintenance in the morning and weapons maintenance in the afternoon. However on November 27, 2012 154th TC took a different approach and conducted a recovery exercise to ensure proper maintenance was conducted not only on their equipment but also on individual Soldiers skills.

As many who have been deployed know, recovery assets are essential and vital to Convoy Operations,

especially when it deals with a quick reaction force. At around 3:00 p.m., the call came in from 1st Platoon Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Turner, that her convoy was stranded on Highway 281, 60 miles South of Fort Hood, TX due to a steering pump malfunction. By 3:18 p.m., the wrecker team had conducted and taken all proper measures to dispatch the standby wrecker to include a composite risk assessment. After completing the Mission Pre Execution Checklist the wrecker team took to the road and headed south on 281 as the skies turned gray and rolling thunderstorm clouds came in. The team arrived at the scene and quickly without instructions pulled in front of the disabled PLS and began recovery. Through bad weather containing lightning and raindrops the size of big marbles, the team pressed on with the mission. Sgt. Fields and Spc. Munos from 154th TC were the wrecker crew on duty that day and proved more than ready to recover 154 assets.

"Planned but unexpected missions like these are the ones that Soldier learn from. "This was an excellent test of the company maintenance recovery readiness." Said 1st Lt. Juan Martinez, the Company Executive Officer "If you really think about it, on an average month we have less than 50% of the days to prepare our Soldiers." After taking subtracting all the weekends, family time, command maintenance, tasking and other events, we have only 12-15 days available to train. Taking advantage of every moment is essential in order to maintain our military readiness.

154th TC would like to thank Councilman Mr. Reed Norman for his assistance to our troops by providing Soda pop while our troops were stranded on the side of the road.



602nd conducts training with new equipment

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Caleb Schultz,
Unit Public Affairs Representative, 602nd SMC

Soldiers with the 602nd Support Maintenance Company “Deuces Wild”, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from the company Electronic Equipment Maintenance section conducted Movement Tracking System training on 26-27 November 2012.

During the sixteen hours class the Soldiers were instructed in

operation, management and installation of the MTS. Despite the large amount of information distributed during the class it was presented in an understandable manner through relaxed, informative instruction. Knowledgeable instructors led the Soldiers through brief slide shows with instructions and information on the various aspects of the MTS.

The instructors led students in hands-on operations with operational MTS workstations. During these labs, the students were tested on their knowledge and understanding through on-the-spot corrections and assistance. Soldiers learned how to

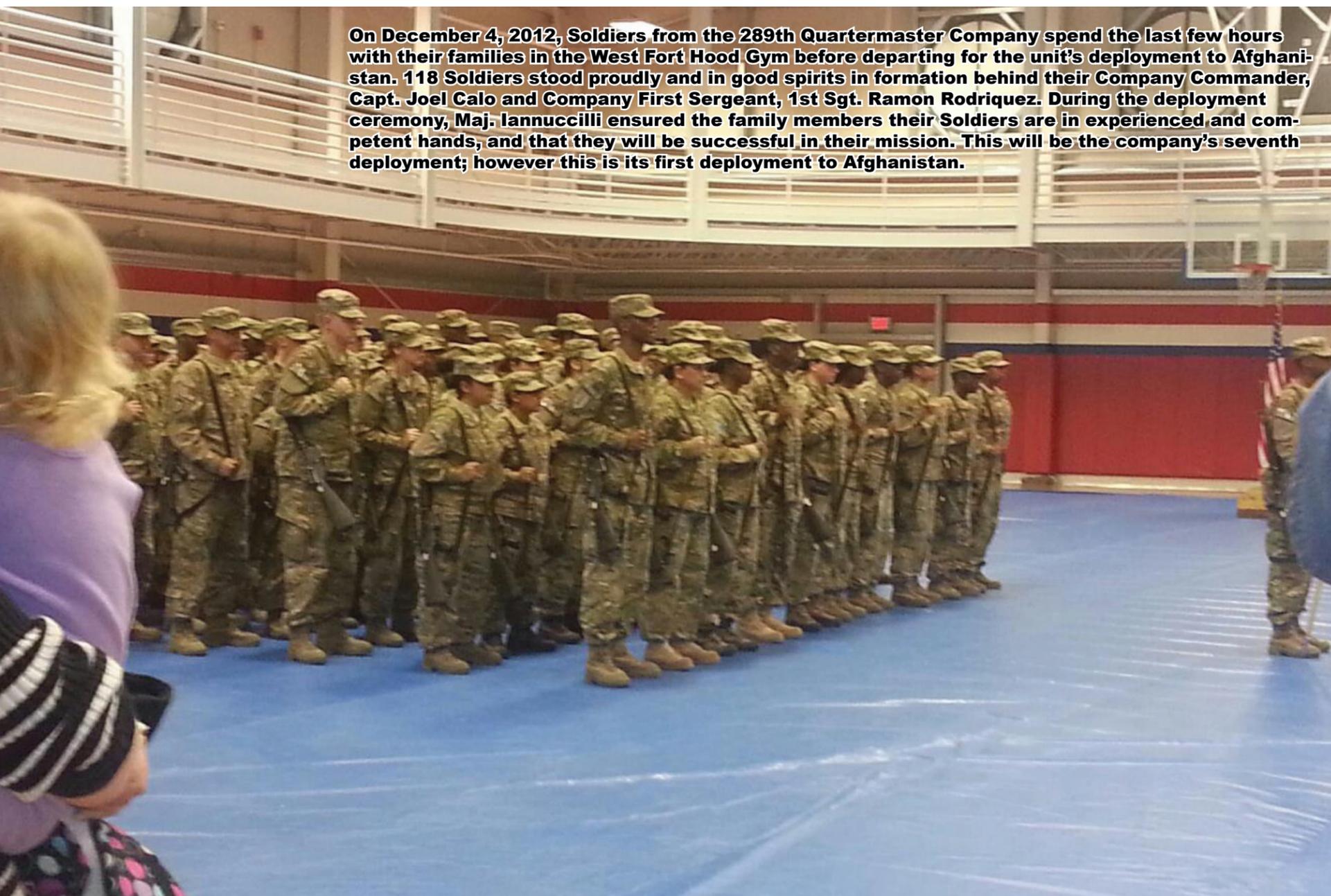
react to real world situations such as contacting the TAC, messaging components of their unit, and how to react to different warnings and alerts within the system. The tools on the MTS allowed the Soldiers to send large quantities of information, ranging from standard messages to MEDEVAC reports; Soldiers can also locate equipment with RFIDs.

Overall, the Soldierstaking this course felt academically fulfilled and confident with their ability to master a new skill so quickly. Spc. Furr, one of the Soldiers who participated in the course, said, “It was great to be able to get out of the shop to learn about some new equipment and further my military knowledge and training.” The company will continue to seek out more training such as this in order to better our Soldiers and improve our effectiveness.



Soldiers from the EEM shop, 602nd SMC, 553rd CSSB, 4th Sustainment Brigade. Soldiers in the 602nd SMC EEM shop conduct MTS training on 26 November 2012.

On December 4, 2012, Soldiers from the 289th Quartermaster Company spend the last few hours with their families in the West Fort Hood Gym before departing for the unit's deployment to Afghanistan. 118 Soldiers stood proudly and in good spirits in formation behind their Company Commander, Capt. Joel Calo and Company First Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Ramon Rodriguez. During the deployment ceremony, Maj. Iannuccilli ensured the family members their Soldiers are in experienced and competent hands, and that they will be successful in their mission. This will be the company's seventh deployment; however this is its first deployment to Afghanistan.



154th TC focuses on maintenance

Story and photos courtesy 154th TC

As a Transportation Company in a Transportation Battalion we are expected to be the experts in all areas related to our profession. Every Soldier is trained on every vehicle in the motor pool. Every Soldier attends a 40 hour Drivers Training course and is required to accumulate over 200 miles before being licensed on the M1075 (PLS), which

is tracked through the SAMS 1-E box. It is important for those operating vehicles to be able to perform basic maintenance services on their vehicles in case of emergency. Thus, all licensed Soldiers can perform such duties as changing a tire or changing fluids.

Maintenance specific training aims to educate the maintenance personnel on any systems they need to be familiar with. Some of these include tool cleanliness and accountability, how to use and locate various publications, and over-viewing maintenance SOP's. Much of the maintenance

sections hands on training come as a result of the units scheduled services.

The benefits of this are three-fold: the soldiers receive MOS specific training, required monthly services are

completed, and the unit's readiness rate remains intact. Through the effective use of resources, the maintenance section of the 154th TC trained all its personnel on all 60 systems being operated. By training the Soldiers on all pieces of equipment the unit was able to do 95% of all maintenance internally, and reducing the cost of the repairs by not evacuating the equipment. Without doing the majority of the maintenance, the unit pacing percentage of vehicles would have been well below 75%.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) and Hazardous Materials Management (HAZMAT) are essential to the success of every mission. The Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) assigned to a specific mission is responsible for the proper QA/QC before sending a vehicle out on mission. This minimizes roadside

breakdowns and allows us to identify minor deficiencies before they become major. The HAZMAT Officer and NCO are responsible for establishing the procedures for the protection of the environment and preservation of natural resources. The most important part of this program is to ensure HAZMAT and waste materials are properly

disposed. The HAZMAT Officer and NCO work in conjunction with the environmental control officer and NCO who supervise all programs in their scope in accordance with Fort Hood Regulation 200-1.

Tool control is another essential to the successful daily operation of the maintenance section and success of the unit's mission. Tool sets, kits and outfits in addition to the sections equipment is valued at over \$3,000,000.00 dollars. Every Soldier is assigned for their own tool boxes. The tool room NCO conducts a quarterly tool box inventory to identify what tools are lost or damaged. In addition, the 154th TC has assigned a custodian responsible for accounting for equipment and ensuring that the tool sign-out log is maintained.

The Internet, ETM's, and PS Magazine are the most common tools used

in maintenance. Websites like the Logistics Information Warehouse (LIW) allow you to track parts and retrieve any electronic manuals (in accordance with AR 750-43). ETM's are used daily for the most updated maintenance instructions for troubleshooting. PS Magazine is an

entertaining publication that puts out great information and saves hundreds of man-hours in research time.

The 154th TC Maintenance SOP follows the guidance set out by DA PAM 750-3, Soldier's Guide for Field Maintenance Operations. It includes unit specific SOPs, section specific SOPs, and programs that support the command's emphasis on proper unit level

maintenance. Its purpose is to describe how the unit's maintenance section is organized, performance of maintenance on weapons, vehicles, nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) gear, and any other unit equipment according to

the unit's Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE).

In conclusion, 154th TC Maintenance's success is due to the hard work and training of every Soldier in the company. Through high quality training, clear SOPs, and effective use of resources, 154th TC Maintenance will exceed the standards and set the bar for others to follow.





Soldiers from the 602nd Maint. Co., 453rd CSSB, 4th Sustainment Brigade perform function checks during a Multi-temperature Refrigerated Container System course. Twelve troops from the company graduated from the course, which covered trouble-shooting the system and additional preventive maintenance. Photo by: Sgt. Stephanie Woodson 4th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs.